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D/HA/HR: MSPEAR (INFO)
EB/IFD/ODF: JWINDER (INFO)

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P 241657Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 015151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: END USE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURCHASED UNDER FMS CREDITS

- 1. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, INTERNAL SECURITY PRACTICES OF ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ARE CREATING PRESSURES FOR TERMINATION OF U.S. MILITARY SALES. THE DEPARTMENT AND THE CONGRESS WILL WISH TO KNOW WHETHER OUR EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED AGAINST CIVILIAN POPULATION IN REPRESSIVE FASHION.
- 2. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT CONGRESS WILL PROBE THIS CONFIDENTIAL

COMPLEMENTAL

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SUBJECT IN DEPTH WHEN ARGENTINE HEARINGS RESUME. FRASER COMMITTEE STAFFERS HAVE ALREADY RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF HELICOPTERS AND TACTICAL RADIOS. LINES OF INQUIRY ARE AS FOLLOWS: ARE U.S. HELICOPTERS BEING USED TO FIGHT

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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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GUERRILLAS? WHERE? HOW? WHICH OF THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WE HAVE FURNISHED HAS INTERNAL SECURITY APPLICATIONS? WHERE ARE THETACTICAL RADIOS WE SUPPLIED BEING USED? WHAT KINDS OF UNITS ARE USING THEM? ARE U.S. ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS USED IN INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS? HOW? WHAT ROLE DO RIVERPATROL CRAFT HAVE IN COUNTER INSURGENCY?

3. EMBASSY IS IN BEST POSITION TO KNOW HOW ARGENTINES ARE USING WHAT WE SUPPLY UNDER FMS CREDITS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE WE CANNOT MONITOR MUCH OF WHAT WE SELL, IN ORDER FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO DECIDE WHETHER AND HOW TO JUSTIFY A CONTINUATION OF OUR PROGRAM IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE KNOW IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE THE WAY IN WHICH EQUIPMENT PROVIDED UNDER PREVIOUS PROGRAM IS BEING UTILIZED. THE EMBASSY IS, THEREFORE, REQUESTED TO MAKE AN URGENT, INTENSIVE REVIEW OF UTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO ARGENTINA UNDER FMS CREDITS DURING LAST TWO FISCAL YEARS (75 AND 76) AND REPORT IN DETAIL PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 4.

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